



FORT DRUM

Volume 1, Issue 1

FORT DRUM

June 2002

MOUNTAIN CLIMBER



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Your answers to...
DANTES testing news...
...page 2
- Army Tuition Assistance...
...page 3
- Troops of Teachers...
...page 3

On the Education Services Officer's Desk

Hours of Operation

The Army Education Center at the McEwen Library and Education Complex

Monday, Tuesday
Thursday and Friday

0900-1600

Wednesday
1245-1600

(315) 772-6878



Welcome to our new and informative education review entitled "The Mountain Climber". We, at the Education Center, have been trying numerous means to reach you, the soldiers, family members, and the Department of the Army (DA) Civilians on Fort Drum, to provide updates in education, information about new and exciting programs, as well as changes to some of the old ones. In spite of our efforts to reach you through email, flyers, the Mountaineer, our website, etcetera, we still talk to members of the Fort Drum community who have never stepped foot in the Education Center and asked about our services or may not even have known that we exist.

The Education Center services all the members of the Fort Drum community. This means that we provide counseling services to family members and DA civilians as well as soldiers, to assist in selecting careers, colleges and degree programs, to discuss shortcuts to those degrees, and to assist in scheduling college entrance examinations. Army Education Counselors are not affiliated with a college. Therefore, they can provide an objective viewpoint and may show, you, the customer many different

options to choose from. Use the free resources that are at hand. If you're not sure if a college is an accredited or reputable institution, the Education Center can answer your questions. Do you need some information on financial aid resources? The Education Center can help.

If you have never wandered into the new McEwen Education Center, I invite you to come in and take a peek. The McEwen Education Center is located in Building P4300 across the parking lot from the Pine Plains Complex and in the same building as the new library. Construction on the McEwen Education Center was completed in August 2000. It's a state-of-the-art facility that contains five computer classrooms and five traditional classrooms. All of our classrooms have a sound system that allows students to be heard equally well from the back of the classroom as from the front. Each classroom is furnished with an electronic marker board, an overhead projector built into the ceiling, and an instructor station with a computer.

College classes are offered at the Education Center through Jefferson Community College, Empire State

College, and the State University of New York (SUNY) College at Potsdam. SUNY College at Oswego has a college representative on post and offers classes at the JCC main campus. SUNY Canton will hopefully be on board soon offering a certificate program in Criminal Investigation, which may blossom into the Bachelor's in Criminal Investigation program here at Fort Drum. SUNY Canton is also scheduled to begin an Associate degree in Automotive Technology for the Fall term. If you're interested, please contact us at the Education Center!

Another new opportunity coming to Fort Drum is eArmy U. eArmyU is the Army's initiative designed to offer enlisted soldiers the capability to work toward a college degree or certificate on-line, anytime, anywhere. 1 July is D Day for eArmyU— read on to see how it will work here at Fort Drum.

Carla K. Ortiz
Education Services Officer



Do You Know..... what
SUNY stands for?
See "On the ESO's Desk"



The Fort Drum
Mountain Climber

Garrison
Commander
COL James J. Kelly

Director, Readiness
Business Center
LTC Arthur J. Fessenden

Education Services
Officer
Ms. Carla K. Ortiz



Army Personnel Testing

Recent cases of eligibility fraud and examination compromise involving Army personnel Tests (APTs) have required us to make some changes in testing procedures at the Army Testing Office.

Each APT has distinctive criteria for eligibility to test, retest, qualifying scores, and scoring requirements. The Army Personnel Test Control Officer (APTCO) at the Education Center can assist in resolving questions, for instance, does a qualifying score on the Alternate Flight Aptitude Skills Test (AFAST) lock out a servicemember from trying for a higher score— (yes). Is there a local waiver—(no). APT managers at Army Personnel Command retain waiver authority, not local commanders and staffers.

One of the measures to ensure eligibility involves a new DA Form 4187 that highlight test eligibility. These new forms also underline the requirement for unit administrative centers to verify eligibility and the acknowledgement that eligibility manipulation is punishable under the UCMJ. Examples of each form are available from the Education Center.

Preventing test compromise involves testing personnel identifying suspect or cheating behaviors and opportunities and safeguarding against them. Again, servicemembers need to know that cheating is a punishable offense under the UCMJ.

The Defense Language Institute (DLI) and HQDA have made significant changes in the conduct of language testing and authorizing proficiency pay that will impact on many eligible service members.

In January, DLI eliminated use of the Speaking portion of the Defense Language Proficiency tests and instituted guidelines for conduct of Oral Proficiency Interviews (OPI). OPIs are authorized when no standard reading and listening DLPT exists or on a case by case basis approved by DLI. OPIs can be conducted through the Fort Drum Testing Center. Contact the APTCO

for more information.

In April, HQDA issued a series of messages clarifying languages that would be authorized Foreign Language Proficiency Pay (FLPP) for both Army trained linguists (Level I) and native speakers (Level II) who had used the DLPT to qualify. The list of FLPP II languages eliminated pay for many of more common languages effective April 9th. Soldiers currently drawing FLPP for eliminated languages will no longer be authorized the bonus. For the updated list, and cutoffs please contact the Education Center.

Joseph Agresti, Lead Guidance
Counselor and Army Personnel
Test Control Officer

HQDA has recently made significant changes to languages that qualify for FLPP II; eliminating a number of languages previously eligible.



DANTES Testing Updates

Don't have time or the money to take a college class? Why not try credit by examination. The exams are designed to test you on knowledge you already have. They are the College Level Examination Program (CLEP), the Dantes Subject Standardized Tests (DSST), and the Excelsior College Examinations (ECE). All are free of charge to active duty and reserve soldiers. You can also earn promotion points for them. For a nominal fee, family members and Department of Defense (DoD) civilians may also take the CLEP and DSST exams. There are over 100 examinations and most are multiple-choice question.

Do you need to brush up on subjects before you try taking an examination? No problem! The Multi Use Learning Facility, Room 141, can suggest college-level guides to help you study. There is also a book in Clothing and Sales to help you study for the CLEP General Examinations.

If you need to take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or the American College Test (ACT) for college and/or Officer Candidate School, you can take these exams for free. The Army will pay the application fee for either the SAT or ACT. You may also take your college examinations at the Testing Center on post.

Lastly, soldiers are able to complete

national certification examinations here. Exams such as Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) is just one of the exams available. Stop by for more information. All of the above mentioned exams need to be coordinated through the Army Education Center.

Mary Anne Hamel, Guidance Counselor and DANTES TCO.

Many of the tests provided by DANTES are free to military personnel or provided at a minimal cost to family members



Yes! EArmyU begins at Fort Drum 1 July 2002. Some reading this article know all about eArmyU while others don't have a clue. Let me provide the facts to put us all on even ground.

What is eArmyU? As previously stated, eArmyU is the Army's educational initiative designed to offer enlisted soldiers the opportunity to work toward a college degree or certificate anytime, anywhere. EArmyU revolutionizes the way the Army educates its students by offering access to 21 accredited colleges, providing an education program at no cost to the soldier and creating the world's largest online education portal, www.eArmyU.com.

How does eArmyU work? A soldier enrolls with one of the eArmyU participating colleges as his/her home institution and chooses a degree program to pursue. When enrolling in eArmyU, the soldier commits by contract to complete 12 semester hours of credit (4 courses) in two years. The Army will pay 100% of the tuition, books and fees, within the cap of \$3,500 per soldier per fiscal year. The Army also pays for the Internet service and provides the soldier with technology package, consisting of a laptop computer, printer and carrying case. If the soldier does not complete a course for personal reasons, the money for the course, to include tuition, books and fees, will be recouped from the soldier. If the soldier does not complete 12 semester hours of credit in two years, the sol-

dier will pay for the technology package and any courses not completed. The technology package IS NOT FREE. The soldier pays for it with his/her commitment, then, it belongs to the soldier.

How do I sign up for eArmyU? See your first sergeant, company commander, command sergeant major or battalion commander, whomever is first in your chain of command. They will provide referrals for eArmyU to the Education Center per instructions provided at a briefing on 3 June at 1000 and 1300 hours for command sergeants major and battalion commanders. Brigade commanders and their sergeants major are invited to this meeting. Units that are not part of a battalion located at Fort Drum will send the highest-

E Army U

Enrollment Criteria

Soldier must have 3 years service remaining upon enrollment. Soldier must extend current enlistment if necessary.

Soldier must not be on assignment instruction of any type.

Have a High School Diploma or GED certificate.

Not be flagged for disciplinary reasons.

Have been counseled by an Army counselor and meet academic success and distance learning readiness criteria.

Soldier must obtain Unit Commander signature on EArmyU Participation Agreement.

ranking officer and NCO to the first briefing. First sergeants and company commanders will be briefed on 4 June at 1000 and 1300 hours. A make-up briefing will be provided on 5 June at 1300 hours. All briefings will be held in the new auditorium, Bldg. 10725.

Army Tuition Assistance

Did you realize that the Army can help pay for your education? One of the educational benefits available to Army service members is Tuition Assistance.

Personnel eligible for Tuition Assistance (TA) include: (1) all active duty soldiers, (2) all soldiers in AGR status, pursuant to Title 10/Title 32, (3) all Reserve Component soldiers in civilian, active duty for special work, active duty for training, or temporary tour of active duty status.

To obtain TA, all eligible soldiers must declare an educational goal: a diploma, degree, or certificate. An education counselor can help with goal setting.

Currently, Tuition Assistance will pay 75% of the tuition of a course within the Department of the Army guidelines. The institution offering the course must be accredited and the accrediting agency must be recognized by the Department

of Education.

The maximum amount of TA a soldier can receive per fiscal year is \$3500.00. The other limit for TA is the cost per semester hour. Therefore, the 75% limit the Army will pay is \$187.50 per semester hour. If the course is more expensive than this, it is then the soldier's responsibility to pay the remaining difference.

TA can be applied to traditional learning in a classroom or to a distance learning course (online or by correspondence). In order to receive TA, a soldier must discuss course offerings and settings with the Army Education Counselor:

After completing 9 semester hours with one academic institution, soldiers must have a SO-CAD (Servicemembers Opportunity College Army Degree) agreement or a documented degree plan outlining the requirements to meet

the educational goal. If this is not on file, no further TA will be issued.

There are some other obligations for Tuition Assistance on the part of the soldier.

The course has to be finished at least 3 weeks in advance of any ETS or PCS date and the final grade must be provided to the Army Education Center.

The final grade has to be a passing one or the TA will have to be paid back to the Army.

If the soldier withdraws from the course for personal reasons, the TA must be repaid before any other TA can be issued. In case of course withdrawal for military reasons, the first Lieutenant Colonel in the chain of command has to sign paperwork

certifying that the withdrawal was for circumstances beyond the soldier's control.

All officers (including commissioned warrant officers) receiving TA incur a two-year active duty service obligation (ADSO) upon the ending date of the last class for which TA was received.

This is a brief overview of what the Army can provide soldiers for Tuition Assistance. There are many different facets to this program. For further details, contact your Army Education Center.

Marcia Norton, Guidance Counselor.

Troops to Teachers

Good news for soldiers considering a second career in teaching is that the Troops to Teachers Program has been authorized for five more years under Public Law 107-110, the "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001". Signed into law by President Bush on January 8, 2002, it provides Referral Assistance and Placement services to military personnel interested in beginning a second career in public education. In exchange for a three-year teaching commitment, DANTES will offer stipends up to \$5,000 apiece to help pay for teacher certification programs, or bonuses of \$10,000 instead to accept employment in schools having a low-income student populations of 50% or higher.

Selections for financial assistance will begin by 1 May 2002.

Specific information about eligibility requirements and application procedures is available through the Defense Activities for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) office in Pensacola, Florida:

Online: <http://voled.doded.mil.dantes/ttt>

Phone: 1-800-452-6616.

The Eligibility Criteria link provides information on categories of individuals eligible for financial assistance and educational and service

requirements. *The most significant change to the eligibility criteria is extending financial assistance to those within one year of retirement, and to members of the Guard or Reserve with at least ten years of services, who agree to an additional three years of reserve service.*

The DANTES Troops to Teachers website also has links to employment opportunities, teacher certification requirements on a state-by-state basis, and State Troops To Teachers Offices, currently located in 24 states. While State offices may be contacted for information, it is important to note that bonuses and stipends for military personnel

come directly from the DANTES Troops to Teachers office, so soldiers are advised to contact the DANTES office first. Interested persons should talk to an Army education counselor at the Education Center, Bldg P-4300 Camp Hale Road.

Marian Weisz, Guidance Counselor

TTT provides informational and opportunity links at a central Web site.





SUNY Colleges... in the NORTH COUNTRY

The SUNY Colleges in the North Country is proud to participate in this inaugural edition of *The Mountain Climber*. We are a group of SUNY Colleges working together to provide high quality college courses and degree programs to the soldiers, family member and civilian community.

At the SUNY office our goal is to offer "one stop shopping". We have advisors available by appointment. We have class schedules and financial aid paperwork and can register for both extension and campus classes. We also have someone to talk to if you're just not sure where to get started.

We are located in the office suite adjoining the Army Education Center in the McEwen Library and Education Complex. Our office hours are from 0900 until 1600 Monday through Friday.

Call (315) 773-9007 or (315) 772-5477.

College Highlights

Jefferson Community College

Fort Drum Advisor-Don Johnson

Fall classes begin August 19 on Fort Drum and on August 26 on the main campus.

JCC is currently accepting registrations for the fall semester through July 9 without payment. You will be billed at a later date. Register now, get your seat and pay later.

What a deal!!

SUNY Empire State College

Site Coordinator-Dr. Joanne Corsica

SUNY Empire State is the non-traditional college within the SUNY system. With SUNY Empire a student can begin his/her studies anytime except the month of August. Information sessions are held every Thursday at 1600 in the McEwen Library.

SUNY Canton

SUNY Canton is our technical college and offers many hands on technical programs. Beginning this fall Canton is offering an Automotive Electronics Course at the Fort Drum Automotive Center. Canton is also making plans to bring its one-of-a-kind Criminal Investigation Program to Fort Drum. If you are a fan of the television show "CSI" you'll love the Criminal Investigation courses with titles such as "Forensic Photography", "Interviews & Interrogations", and "Crime Scene Investigation".

SUNY Potsdam

Site Coordinator-Tom Yousey

Want to become a teacher but have a bachelor's degree in another area? SUNY Potsdam can help with its Master of Science in Teaching. Don't have your bachelor degree yet. Potsdam also offers a Bachelor of Business Administration.

SUNY Oswego

Site Coordinator-Larry Mayo

SUNY Oswego offers several degree programs locally to include a bachelor degree in Business Administration and two masters, an MBA and a Master of Science in Human Services Counseling.

SUNY Institute of Technology at Utica-Rome

SUNY IT utilizes distance learning to offer several degree programs available to area residents. The degrees include a Bachelor of Science in Health Services Management and two masters of Science in Accountancy and in Health Services Administration.

SUNY Plattsburgh

1 800 787 8773

SUNY Plattsburgh offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing For those already holding an Associate degree in Nursing or their RN. Classes are offered via teleconference at Jefferson Community College. For information about this program,

Call 1 800 787 8773.

SUNY Colleges in the North Country
State University of New York

SUMMER 2002 CLASS OFFERINGS

SUNY Oswego

Various semester dates-5/28-8/16/02

BLW 355 560	Legal & Reg. Env. Of Business	T/Th	6:00-9:25	JCC
CPS 541 560	Intro. to Group Process	T/Th	4:00-8:15	JCC
CPS 561 560	Pharm, Phys, & Psych. Chem. Dep	Mon	4:00-10:15	JCC

SUNY Potsdam

Various semester dates-5/21 - 8/9/02

GRED 507	Develop. Positive Self Concept	M-F	9:00-4:30	Calcium-
GRED 507	Develop. Positive Self Concept	M-F	9:00-4:30	Calcium
GRED 510	Museums & Local Sites as Educ.	T/Th	10:00-2	JCC
GRED 511	Humanistic Education	M-F	9:00-4:30	Calcium
GRED 517	Integ. Arts into Elem. Clsrms	T/Th	2:30-6:30	Sherman
GRED 528	Adv. Rdng & Lang Arts Meth.	M-Th	9:15-11:15	No. Elem
GRED 548	Child. Lit. in Teaching Rdng	M/W	4:30-8:30	Sherman
GRED 566	Elem Science:Cont. & Meth.	F/Sa	4-9, 9-5	JCC
GRED 600	Phil. Foundations of Educ.	T/Th	5:30-9:30	JCC
GRED 631	Remed. Tech. In Reading	M/W	8:30-12:30	No. Elem
GRED 641	Inform Clsrn Rdng Assess. Tech	T/Th	4:30-8:30	No. Elem
IT 518	Microcomp. in Elem. Educ.	M/W	5:30-9:30	FTD
IT 659	Instructional Project Develop.	Independent Study Course		

SUNY Empire State College

ENG 150/350	Special Topics in Writing	Thur.	6:00-8:30	Watn
CHS 350	Topics in Comm. & Hum. Serv.	Tues.	6:00-8:30	Watn

Call 773-6139 or 785-2418 for more information.

Jefferson Community College

Semester dates 6/3 - 7/26/02

BUS 104 861	Personal Finance	M/W	6:00-9:00	FTD
BUS 124 861	Marketing I	M/W	6:00-9:00	FTD
CIS 110 861	Intro to Computers	M/W	6:00-9:35	FTD
CRJ 110 861	Criminal Evidence	M/W	6:00-9:00	FTD
ENG 100 861	Composition 1	M/W	6:00-9:00	FTD
ENG 101 861	Composition 2	M/W	6:00-9:00	FTD
PSY 220 861	Child & Adol. Psychology	M/W	6:00-9:00	FTD
ART 115 861	Art Appreciation 1	T/Th	6:00-9:00	FTD
CRJ 212 861	Intro. to Security	T/Th	6:00-9:00	FTD
ENG 218 861	Technical Writing	T/Th	6:00-9:00	FTD
GEO 102 861	Planet Earth	T/Th	6:00-9:00	FTD
HIS 120 861	U.S./Vietnam History	T/Th	6:00-9:00	FTD
MTH 129 861	Survey of Mathematics	T/Th	6:00-9:00	FTD
POL 121 861	Intro. to Amer. Govern	T/Th	6:00-9:00	FTD
SOC 144 861	Intro. to Sociology	T/Th	6:00-9:00	FTD
BUS 112 801	Intro. to Business	M-Th	11:30-12:45	FTD
PSY 133 801	Intro. to Psychology	M-Th	11:30-12:45	FTD

SUNY Plattsburgh

NUR 427	Research in Nursing(6/3-7/3)M/W	4:00-8:05	JCC
ANT 362 WB1	Global Issues (SLN - 6/3-8/9)		WWW
ANT 362 WB2	Global Issues (SLN - 6/3-8/9)		WWW
PED 271 WB1	Wellness & Fitness (SLN - 6/3-8/9)		WWW
PED 271 WB2	Wellness & Fitness (SLN - 6/3-8/9)		WWW

Note: Plattsburgh courses are in support of Telenursing program.

Please call 1-800-787-8773 for registration materials and/or information.

SUNY Learning Network. Too busy to attend a class???? Check out our member campuses online course offerings for Summer 2002.

Schedule will be available in April at: <http://SLN.suny.edu/sln>